



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS  
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 974-1465 or (213) 974-1431

FOUNDER  
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio  
Mr. Vito Cannella  
Ms. Rita Hall  
Mr. John A. Hammargren  
Mr. Carl E. Moore

### **MINUTES OF THE** **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING** **JANUARY 3, 2007**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Montano called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

#### **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### **Present**

Chair Eleanor R. Montano  
Vito Cannella  
Rita Hall  
Carl E. Moore

##### **Absent**

Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos  
Frank Bacio  
John A. Hammargren

##### **Others Present**

Sandra Barbee, Chief, Commission Services Division  
Audra Galang, Staff, Commission Services Division

#### **APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 13, 2006 MINUTES**

On motion of Commissioner Cannella, seconded by Commissioner Moore, and unanimously carried, the minutes of December 13, 2006 were approved with correction, as follows:

**Page 2, CHAIR'S REPORT** .... She said that LAPD Officer Cristina La Parte was done in the makeover of her house **ADD: , which is an ADA compliant and was featured in Channel 7's Extreme Home Make Over.**

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Montano wished all a Happy New Year and condolences for the passing of staff member Mrs. Dedie Ward. She gave a brief description about her trip to Denver, Colorado, and said she is very impressed with the State of Colorado because there are no graffiti or gangs and it is a beautiful place with cleaner air.

Chair Montano reported on the following articles:

- ✚ *"Healthcare suffers at L.A. jails,"* Sunday Los Angeles Times, December 24, 2006. Understaffing plaques jails' care.
- ✚ *"In Jail and in danger,"* Sunday Los Angeles Times, December 17, 2006. Violence has left 14 dead and hundreds hurt since 2000 in L.A. County lockups. 530 inmate disturbances in jails run by the Los Angeles County since 2000. 18,000+ inmates overbooked.
- ✚ In Harbor City, an article on *"2 'senseless' killings in an hour,"* Los Angeles Times, December 8, 2006. The killings took place within an hour of each other, one as he stood in his driveway, the other while paying for groceries at a convenience store. Both were age 34 and were killed in the same part of town. The police suspect gang members in both shootings.
- ✚ *"Killings of youths tied to child protection system soar in 2006,"* Los Angeles Times, December 23, 2006. Seventy-nine children with ties to Los Angeles County's child protection system were victims of homicide. Most of the 79 killings were believed to have been gang-related.
- ✚ *"County to pay \$2.8 million in inmate beating,"* Los Angeles Times, December 20, 2006.

Chair Montano plans to set up a meeting with Sheriff Baca and the Human Relations Commission on racial problems that are going on. On February 9, 2006, she will meet with Sheriff Baca and discuss articles.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Without Commissioner Bacio, the Treasury Report was deferred to the next meeting.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Sandra Barbee, Chief of Commission Services Division, reported the following:

1. The Auditor-Controller's Office asked for the Commissioner's average amount of mileage for calendar year 2006. A copy of the report was shared with the Commissioners.
2. The Annual Inspection Visits Report for 2006 of the Commission was shared with the Commissioners.
3. A copy of "Personal Liability of County Commission/Committee Members" from Ms. Barbara Goul of the County Counsel was shared with the Commissioners.
4. A letter of recommendation to Sheriff Baca was prepared for the approval signature of Chair Montano which was pending review.
5. A letter to Ms. Patricia Ploehn, Director of DCFS, inviting her to speak at the February 14, 2007 meeting was submitted to Chair Montano for approval.
6. Miss Sachi Hamai, Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors will be a guest speaker at the February 7, 2007 meeting.
7. A get well card for former Commissioner James Cragin was mailed.
8. At the request of Commissioner Moore, a preprinted draft certificate was prepared and distributed for the Commissioners to reward facilities' employees and children.

9. Letters requesting in-kind donations from Neutrogena and Wal\*Mart were submitted for approval signature of Chair Montano.
10. A memorandum on funeral services for staff member, Demitria Ward, was distributed to Commissioners.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Chair Montano received the following:

1. Thank you letter from Commissioner Cannella's church for donations to the Annual Christmas Party for persons with disabilities.
2. Letter from DCFS about assigned representatives attending business and quarterly roundtable meetings of Sybil Brand Commission.
3. Christmas card from the Attorney General with a donation envelop.
4. Correspondence from various companies asking for donations.
5. The Auditor-Controller's reports were received for review.

### **FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS**

#### **Fred Jefferson Memorial Home – 46, #2**

Chair Montano visited this facility on December 20, 2006 and found areas of concern. The oven needs cleaning; bedroom No. 2 rug stripped at the entrance; the rugs need to be shampooed; the water heater strap needs cleaning; and the vent needs a screen. There were incidents about twice a week of smoking and AWOL. House rules and evacuation plan not posted. First aid kit needs to be restocked.

#### **Children's Circle – 10, #1**

(formerly Babies With Aids)

Chair Montano visited this facility on December 19, 2006 and found it was being closed because the contract was over since January 26, 2006, and the one at 5939 next door has a capacity of nine and occupied by five boys and being disbursed to group homes.

#### **Greater Hope Society #2 – 50, #1**

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on December 18, 2006 and found a capacity of six and occupied by six boys. It is a beautiful home with a jacuzzi and fully decorated for Christmas. It was given a rating of **Satisfactory**.

#### **Drice Group Home – 30, #2**

Commissioners Hall and Moore visited this facility on December 20, 2006 and found no significant issues. An area of concern was found that a disaster drill was not done since July 2006. The house is in good condition and used bright colors.

#### **Drice Group Home (Peanuts) – 30, #3**

Commissioners Bacio, Hall and Moore visited this facility on December 21, 2006 and found areas of concern. The smoke detectors in bedrooms 2 and 3 are not working. The refrigerator is locked. Client informed that boys do not have enough activities.

**House of Bethesda – 56, #3**

Commissioners Bacio, Hall and Moore visited this facility on December 19, 2006 and found areas of concern. There is no release bar on the bedroom window and one stove pilot is not working.

**Edelman's Children's Court**

Commissioners Bacio, Hall and Moore visited this clean court on December 26, 2006 and found areas of concern. Turn-out gear is too small and that they are on order. There are no trustees. A bailiff watches the cameras.

**Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center (CCJCC)**

Commissioners Bacio, Hall and Moore visited this facility on December 27, 2006 and found areas of concern. The 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> floor lock-up cells need painting. No panic buttons. The turn-out gears are small and there are only medium size boots. All deputies carry radios but there are no cameras in the hallways. There are 500-750 detainees and 20 releases each day.

**Eastlake Juvenile Court**

(County of Los Angeles)

Commissioners Bacio and Hall visited this courthouse on December 28, 2006 and found areas of concern. Cells need painting. No Sally Port area. There is no security in transporting inmates into the building. There is a need to install video cameras. There is a need for a radio repeater. Courtroom 202 is a great distance from the main office. Food is provided by the Probation Department.

**Pomona Court**

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hall visited this court on January 2, 2007 and found areas of concern. There is no security after 6:00 p.m. There is no security where Judges' park (in front entrance). Entrance should be reversed to enhance safety issues of the Judges. There is a need for a defibrillator.

**NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Montano shared inspection assignments with the Commissioners for the following week.

Discussion on the recommendation of Commissioners Moore and Hall about "On the Spot Recognition" for the children, staff members of the group home facilities and the facility to begin in 2007.

Commissioner Vito Cannella advised the Commission that due to health issues, he may not be able to participate in Sybil Brand Commission's activities as actively and thanked the Commission for their continued support.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

**MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)**

Donation to staff member Mrs. Dedie Ward's memorial fund for her minor daughter,  
Miss DeMia Ward

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sandra Barbee*  
Chief, Commission Services Division